



**EMORY TIBETAN STUDIES PROGRAM**  
**Spring Semester**  
***Independent Research: Selected Topics***



**The Independent Research** course allows students to explore creatively a particular Tibetan Studies related topic and culminates in a major paper. Methodology might include tutorials, field research, internship, service, and/or library research, under the joint direction of Emory and local staff. Students may arrange credit hours towards their major, pending approval from their faculty advisor.

**Research Proposal**

As part of the application process, students must submit a research proposal that describes their intended research project and methodology. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisor to discuss their proposal topic. In addition, students may contact Dr. Tara Doyle (tndoyle@learnlink.emory.edu) for questions regarding the independent research project.

To view sample research proposals completed at the time of application, please click here: [Sample independent research proposals](#)

Upon arrival to Dharamsala, students may revise their research proposal in conjunction with the Tibetan Culture and Civilization course. Revised proposals must be approved on the on-site director prior to the beginning of the research period. To view a sample research proposal submitted on-site in Dharamsala, please click here: [Independent research proposal](#)

**Selected Topics and Completed Independent Research Papers**

Below are research papers completed by former program participants on the Emory Tibetan Studies Program organized by topic.

**Buddhism and Philosophy:**

[Recognizing My Mother: An Introduction to Madhyamika](#) by Stephen Dominick (Spring 2003)

[Monks and Modernity: Contemporary Buddhist Monasticism in the Tibetan](#) Diaspora by Keith Nelson (Spring 2004)

[Shantideva's Bodhisattvacharavatara: The Way of the Bodhisattva Ninth Chapter Analysis](#) by Nick Barr (Spring 2004)

[Tara and Tibetan Buddhism: The Emergence of the Feminine Divine](#) by Allison Mull (Spring 2004)

[...functional fabrications... a look at Tsong-kha-pa's ontology](#) by Casey Fitzpatrick (Spring 2009)

[Mind or Matter?: a Comparison of the Buddhist Philosophical View of Mind and the Neuroscience View of Mind](#) by Stacey Neilson (Spring 2009)

[Why Meditate?](#) By Joshua Weiss (Spring 2009)

### **The Arts:**

[The Semiotics and Semantics of Learning a Lhamo Literacy](#) by Alexandra Paddock (Spring 2009)

### **Health:**

[Substance Abuse Among Second-Generation Tibetan Refugees Living in India](#) by Catherine Carlson (Spring 2003)

[Borders without Doctors: The Community Health Workers Program for Tibetan Refugees](#) by Emily Cohen (Spring 2004)

[Tibetan Medicine: The Art of Seeing More than just a Disease](#) by Laura Gorham (Spring 2004)

### **Ecology:**

[Understanding a Powerful Notion of Nature and the Tibetans' Unique Engagement with It](#) by Genevieve Deleon (Spring 2009)

[A Tree Grows in Exile: Reinventing the Tibetan Environmental Tradition](#) by Jennifer Rowe (Spring 2010)

### **Education:**

[Educational Issues facing Tibetans Today](#) by Adriana Mather (Spring 2004)

[Unemployment in the Tibetan Community in Exile](#) by Rebecca Arnold (Spring 2009)

[From PRC to THC: How Education in Tibet Effects Students' Experiences at an Educational NGO in Dharamsala](#) by Carrie Walther (Spring 2009)

### **Political Issues:**

[Indo-Tibetan Political Relations: Past, Present, and the Future of Tibet](#) by Anjali Dharan (Spring 2003)

[Tibetan Buddhism's affect on the role of Students for a Free Tibet in resolving the Sino-Tibetan Conflict](#) by Jessica Brock (Spring 2009)

[Conflict and Adaptation: Tibetan Perspectives on Nonviolent Practice](#) by Lauren Pass (Spring 2009)

[Common Ground with People's Republic of China: How the Central Tibetan Administration Envisions an Autonomous Tibet](#) by Michael Ramos-Lynch (Spring 2009)

[The Next Dalai Lama: How will They Decide?](#) By Molly Daffner (Spring 2010)

**Women's Issues:**

[A Look into the Lives of Tibetan Females in Exile](#) by Sarah Cordes (Spring 2004)